

The Great Discover Geneva Treasure Hunt

The objective of this treasure hunt is to learn a little bit about Geneva, but most of all, to have fun ! Take your time, look around you and don't forget to stop for a rest and a drink.

Good luck and keep smiling ☺

Instructions and Questions

Buy a day ticket and take the tram and get off at the Cornavin railway station. Walk down the Rue de Chantepoulet to the Mont Blanc bridge. **Do not cross the bridge.**

1. On the way down, you crossed the Place des Vingt-Deux Cantons. However, how many cantons make up the Swiss Confederation ? The bridge will give you a clue.
2. Don't cross the bridge but turn right along the Quai des Bergues. On your left is a tree covered island. Who is sitting there looking away from the lake ?

Back on the Quai des Bergues continue until you come to the Pont de la Machine. The original machine pumped hot water to the local houses. Today, the Geneva Office de Tourisme is located in the building that housed the pump.

3. Cross the bridge and find out when the office is open on Tuesday-Friday.

Continue across the bridge.

4. What river is flowing beneath you ?

Cross the Quai Bezanson-Hugues.

5. When did he die ?

Turn right along the rue de la Monnaie in the direction of the Mediterranean and when you get to the Place Bel-Air, look straight ahead for a large bank. Turn left at the bank, up the street of flags, the Rue de la Corraterie.

6. What are the two flags alternating up the street ?

This is an expensive street beware of being tempted. At the top, you reach the Place Neuve with General Dufour sitting magnificently on his horse. He won a war, whilst managing to keep the number of casualties to a bare minimum.

7. He is looking at the Geneva Conservatoire de Musique. When was it founded ?
8. Discretely hidden at the edge of the Place is the bust of the founder of the Red Cross. What is his name ?

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Walk through the wrought iron park gates with the golden tips, into the Parc des Bastions. Stop if you wish to challenge the locals to a game of chess but watch the time. Behind the bandstand are automatically-cleaned toilets. What a relief for 50 centimes !

Round the front of the bandstand is a chestnut tree lined alley – a wonderful place for collecting what we call « conkers » in autumn. On your right are the main buildings of Geneva University.

9. On your left is the bust of a famous child psychologist. What is his name ?

10. Behind him is the famous Reformation Monument. Who are the four giants of the Reformation ?

Walk past them keeping them on your left and take the ramp out of the park onto the Rue de la Croix Rouge. Cross the road at the pedestrian crossing.

The wall facing you is an example of the old walls of Geneva. On the night of 12th December 1602 Mère Royaume tipped a cauldron of boiling vegetable soup onto the heads of the Savoyard army who were scaling the walls and saved the city. Every year Geneva celebrates this event with a magnificent torchlit parade, and of course hot soup and hot wine is served free of charge.

Turn right and a few metres further turn left up the ramp to the Promenade de la Treille. The trees on this south-facing children's playground announce the first day of Spring, when the first leaves appear, usually in early February !

Walk on to the statue of Pictet de Rochemont and turn right to enter the Old Town under the arch. You pass the Cafe Papon on your right, a famous meeting place for Geneva politicians and dignitaries past and present.

Turn right onto the Rue Hotel de Ville. After a couple of metres is the Court de l'Hotel de Ville, where open air summer concerts take place.

Enter the courtyard and look around you.

11. What is the name of the room in which the First Act of the International Red Cross was signed in 1864 ? For a bonus point, what is the room named after ?

Back out of the courtyard. To your left is a famous Geneva street – the Grand Rue – where Jean-Jaques Rousseau was born in a house which is now a museum. The street and the museum are worth a visit another time.

However, today you need to walk past the canons down the Rue de Puits Saint Pierre. A few metres down this little alley, you will find the Maison Tavel, the oldest surviving house in Geneva, also a museum.

12. When did the original house burn down ?

Outside Maison Tavel to the left of the canons you will find the little Rue du Soleil Levant. Walk up it to the Cathédrale Saint Pierre.

13. How much does it cost to climb to the top of the North Tower for a stunning view of the city and surrounding countryside ?

Leave the cathedral by the Place de la Taconnerie past the Auditoire Calvin also known by another name.

14. What is it?

Back on to the Rue de l'Hotel de Ville, and turn left to the Place Bourg du Four. Stop for a refreshing drink at La Clemence, where Mick spent many a happy hour discussing particle physics late into the evening during the days of bubble chambers !

Leave the Place du Bourg du Four by the Rue de Chaudronniers past the Palais de Justice and the old prison which is now the new administrative buildings. Continue straight on to the Museum of Art and History.

Look around you. You can see the golden onions decorating the Russian orthodox church.

The museum is worth visiting another day and has a bookshop and a secluded courtyard restaurant

15. Stand on the museum steps and there is a garden facing you. What is the name of the sculpture in the garden ?

At the right of the garden is a ramp which takes you down parallel to the Boulevard Helvétique to the Rue Ferdinand Hodler. The ramp continues to the left onto this street. At the bottom, water is flowing from a lion's mouth.

16. There are many fountains like this around Geneva. Can you guess what the lion means ?

Straight ahead you can see Geneva's most famous landmark – the Jet d'Eau. Make your way towards it, crossing the roads with care.

At the Jet d'Eau, a must to visit for every tourist, walk to the end if you dare !

17. How much water is pumped into the air in favourable weather conditions on Midsummer's Day ?

Now walk back along the lakeside the way that you came, back towards the Old Town. Watch out for the Debarcadères Quai Gustav Ador. It's a boat pier and there is a big red and yellow flag flying at the end of it. Your day-pass bus ticket will pay for your trip on the M2 seagull boat (les Mouettes de Genève) to the other side of the lake.

Depending on the time of year, and the time that you arrive at the pier, the boat may have stopped running. In this case continue your walk through the Jardin Anglais and across the Mont Blanc bridge back towards the train station. Stop to take a look at the famous Geneva flower clock just before the bridge. At the other side of the bridge rejoin the trail by turning right and heading for the Hotel Beau Rivage.

Walk left towards the Mont Blanc bridge but don't go far, only a few metres, then cross the road at the Hotel Beau Rivage. Walk past the front of the hotel up the Rue Adhemar Fabri to the Place des Alpes. Take bus # 1 to the train station (or walk there if you wish). Take the number 15 tram towards the Palais des Nations and get off at Nations.

The square has just been renovated

18. The broken chair sculpture was erected as a protest against something. Can you guess what it was?

Flying in front of the Palais des Nations are many flags.

19. You won't find the answer by looking, but can you guess what are the official languages of the United Nations ?

Look around you and you will see a number of International Organisations.

20. Who do the employees of the HCR look after ?

21. What does ITU stand for ?

Up the hill, at the bottom of the Route de Ferney there is an exotic new building with a waterfall surrounding its conference room.

22. This organisation is WIPO? What does it protect?

Congratulations ! You've almost finished the Treasure Hunt.

23. Whoops ! One last thing. We forgot to ask you who ate at the Restaurant Les Armures in the Old Town in 1994.

Thank you for participating. We hope you have enjoyed your visit to Geneva. If you have any comments or suggestions please send them to Visits.Service@cern.ch.